

CLAIMS:

1. Shaving apparatus having a skin contact surface (9;52) accommodating at least one cutting unit (3;53) that comprises an external cutting member (4;55), a matching internal cutting member (6;56), and a device (18-20) for providing a shaving aid to said skin contact surface (9;52), characterized by shaving aid retaining means (34-36;48) provided on at least
5 part of said skin contact surface.
2. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one cutting unit (3) is of the rotary type comprising an external annular cutting member (4), and wherein first shaving aid retaining means (33) are provided on the skin contact surface (9) enclosed by the
10 external cutting member (4) of the at least one cutting unit (3).
3. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first shaving aid retaining means comprise at least one ridge (30-32) extending around the center of the skin contact surface (9) enclosed by the annular cutting member (4) of the at least one cutting unit
15 (3).
4. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said at least one ridge comprises at least one of the following configurations:
a) a number of concentric ridges,
20 b) at least one spiral-shaped ridge,
c) at least one star-shaped ridge,
d) at least one flower-shaped ridge.
5. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first shaving aid
25 retaining means include a pattern of dimples in at least part of the skin contact surface.
6. Shaving apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 2 to 5, wherein the skin contact surface (9) provided with said first shaving aid means is the surface of a decorative cap (33).

7. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the decorative cap has a generally domed shape.

5 8. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 6 or 7, wherein the decorative cap has a low friction surface.

9. Shaving apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 2 to 8, wherein second shaving aid retaining means are provided on the skin contact surface (9) surrounding the at
10 least one cutting unit.

10. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second shaving aid retaining means comprise at least one groove (48) surrounding the external stationary annular cutting member (4) of the at least one cutting unit (3).
15

11. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 9 or 10, wherein the skin contact surface is the surface (9) of a skin support member (42) having a socket for each cutting unit (3), and wherein a ring-shaped element (46) is placed in each of said sockets and encloses a corresponding cutting unit (3), a shaving aid retaining groove (48) being at least partly
20 provided at the junction of said ring-shaped element (46) and the surrounding skin support member (42).

12. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least the top surface of each ring-shaped element (46) surrounding a cutting unit (3) is a low-friction surface.
25

13. Cutting unit of the rotary type for a shaving apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 2 to 12, said cutting unit having an external annular cutting member (4) and a skin contact surface (16) enclosed by the external cutting member (4), wherein said enclosed skin contact surface (16) is provided with shaving aid retaining means (34-36).
30

14. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one cutting unit is an elongate cutting unit (53) of the vibrating type having a perforated foil (55) as an external cutting member, and wherein shaving aid retaining means are provided along at least one of the sides of the at least one cutting unit (53).

15. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said at least one of the sides comprises at least one long side of at least one cutting unit (53).
- 5 16. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein a frame (57) is provided having a recess (58) for each cutting unit (53) and having frame sections (59,60) extending along the cutting units, said frame sections at least partly forming skin contact surfaces provided with shaving aid retaining means.
- 10 17. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein at least two cutting units (53) are provided, each having a perforated foil (55) extending at least partly over at least one intermediate skin contact surface (54) between two adjacent cutting units, wherein said intermediate skin contact surface is provided with shaving aid retaining means.
- 15 18. Shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the foils of two adjacent cutting units (53) extend over an intermediate skin contact surface (54) forming a strip-shaped area between their adjacent edges, and wherein shaving aid retaining means are provided at said strip-shaped area.
- 20 19. Shaving apparatus as claimed in anyone of the claims 14 to 18, wherein said shaving aid retaining means comprise a number of ridges and/or grooves or a pattern of dimples extending substantially parallel to the elongate cutting units.
20. Foil-shaped external cutting member (55) for at least one cutting unit (53) of a
25 shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 17 or 18, said foil having at least one intermediate skin contact surface (54) between two cutting member sections (53), said intermediate surface (54) being provided with shaving aid retaining means.
21. Frame (57) for a shaving apparatus as claimed in claim 16, said frame having a
30 recess (58) for at least one elongate cutting unit (53) and further having frame sections (59,60) extending along said at least one cutting unit, said frame sections at least partly forming skin contact surfaces provided with shaving aid retaining means.

22. Shaving apparatus as claimed in any one of the claims 14 to 19 or foil-shaped cutting member as claimed in claim 20 or frame as claimed in claim 21, wherein said shaving aid retaining means comprise elongate ridges and/or grooves, or a pattern of dimples.